

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs One Ashburton Place, 5th Floor Boston, Massachusetts 02108

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Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to the provisions of St. 1979 c. 393 §2 and in accordance with M.G.L,. c. 30A, a public hearing will be held on October 2^{nd} , 2017 from 10:00 - 12:00PM on the 5^{th} floor, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108.

651 CMR 6.00: Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

These regulations establish necessary and appropriate requirements for the administration of the Statewide Long Term Care Ombudsman Program including, but not limited to, the designation, redesignation, and termination of designation of Local Ombudsman Programs, and the receipt and investigation of complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long term care facilities, and the resolution of such complaints through administrative action or by referral to an appropriate agency or organization.

The proposed changes to the regulations are in accordance with 45 CFR Parts 1321 and 1324, which were updated via a final rule that went into effect in July 2016. The Administration on Aging (AoA) of the ACL within the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is working with the various states to ensure that the federal funded ombudsman programs are governed by state regulations that are not in conflict with the final rule.

Written testimony and public comment from interested parties may also be submitted. All written submissions must include the sender's full name and address and may be mailed to:

Executive Office of Elder Affairs 1 Ashburton Place Boston, MA 02108 Attention: Siobhan Coyle

Written testimony may also be submitted electronically to <u>Siobhan.coyle@state.ma.us</u>. Please submit electronic testimony as an attached MSWord document or .pdf file with the name of the regulation in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender's full name and address. Individuals who are unable to submit testimony by email should mail written testimony to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Attention: Siobhan Coyle, 1 Ashburton Place, Boston MA 02108. Written testimony must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. on October 6th.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also include a way we can contact you if we need more information. Please allow 72 hours advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may not be possible to fill. Please send an e-mail to siobhan.coyle@massmail.state.ma.us or call 617-222-7562.